

I support media diversity

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. I believe that the existing rules and regulations already have permitted too much concentration of ownership of radio licenses. A further relaxation of rules, for television and radio, would immeasurably harm the public interest by reducing the diversity of opinion and content in news and public affairs programming.

The FCC has recently been shown to be unduly influenced by the media companies it is supposed to regulate. The studies of the impact of further deregulation are not trustworthy.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

The FCC Chairman, Michael Powell, has ignored public opinion as expressed in hundreds of thousands of emails and petition signatures, and has prevented the public from having a fair opportunity to comment by holding only one official hearing in Richmond, VA. A matter this important should have hearings in every major American city and media market.

Chairman Powell's arrogance is staggering. He has so far ignored the specific request of 150 members of Congress, Democrats and Republicans, to delay the June 2 vote and hold additional public hearings.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Sincerely,

DONALD S. ROSANELLI